

ADVISORY COMMITTEE OF NONVOTING TAXPAYERS
Minutes of meeting 10 A.M., SATURDAY, June 28, 2014, at
4 Fairgrounds Road

1. Attending: Lou Bassano, Howard Blitman, David Brown, Roger Ernst, Lucas Fischer, Sue Matloff, Bill Sherman, Jay Strauss (10:07 am – 11:13 am), Jim Treanor and Tony Walsh --- a quorum. Selectmen Tobias Green and Rick Atherton (10:07 am – 10:51 am) and Harris Stone were also present. Members absent: Donald Green, Steve Meader.
2. ACNVT Chair Howard Blitman called the meeting to order at 10:01 a.m. The proposed agenda for the meeting was approved. The minutes of the September 13, 2013 meeting were approved.
3. Howard Blitman introduced Selectman Tobias Glidden, now into the second year of his term. Tobias, who serves on the Capital Programs Committee as well as the BOS, asked what ACNVT members thought to be issues of concern to summer residents.
4. Lou Bassano asked Tobias how he viewed Sconset bluff erosion measures. "Like a balloon," responded Tobias, erosion popping out at a second area when curbed in a first. Lou suggested offering affected bluff owners a town lot for their house, limited to a life estate to induce them to move and forego armoring. Note was made that many bluff owners had originally held inland lots across Baxter Road but had sold them. A concern voiced by Lou and Howard was fiscal impact on taxpayers when the Town partnered in erosion control.
5. Rick Atherton explained that costs were incurred in diverting time and effort of the BOS and Town staff from other important needs. The Town hasn't joined the SBPF in its appeal to the state EPA but nonetheless incurs legal costs (Town Counsel Koppelman & Paige billing is not within its retainer).
6. Next was an explanation offered Tobias about the advisory role of ACNVT on behalf of summer residents and its appointment by Town Manager. Responding to Tobias' question of how ACNVT gains awareness of summer resident concerns, members said that their various personal and organizational contacts provided that awareness. With no budget/expenditures, ACNVT did not undertake polling. While ACNVT had sent advisory letters to the BOS, the suggestion of sending them to the I&M raised questions whether that would go beyond its advisory mission to one of advocacy.

7. A particular role of ACNVT is co-sponsoring with the Nantucket Community Association the annual Summer Forum. David Brown, President of NCA as well as an ACNVT member, reported that the 2014 Summer Forum is set for 9:30 – 11:00 a.m. on Monday, July 28, in the Great Room of the Atheneum. Bill Sherman noted that NCA typically takes on the cost and organizing effort for the Forum while ACNVT lends weight in offering through the Forum a voice specifically for summer residents in exchanges with the BOS, with the Town Manager and other Town staff who attend.
8. Reverting to Sconset bluff issues, explanation was offered in response to Jay Strauss that the Town is responsible for providing alternative access for road and utilities if current access is lost to erosion. A rough estimate of cost to replace Sconset bluff water and electricity is \$1 million. If sewerage were lost, tight tanks for septic might be an option. In any event, such alternatives/improvements would be betterable, ie, chargeable to the benefitted abutters as betterments. This would allow Town recovery of its upfront costs.
9. Re concern about possible continuing costs for bluff erosion control, eg, replenishing sand, one possibility is a special tax district consisting of bluff properties protected from the erosion.
10. Tobias expressed concern about harbor pollution from fertilizer runoff. Eventual regulation of fertilizer supply may be needed; meanwhile, education about alternatives to an (overfertilized) lawn could be useful. Howard noted the very responsible practices of the Nantucket Golf Club in maintaining its grass.
11. Lou raised concern about high noise levels extending north from the Tom Nevers Naval base, eg, anticipated with the scheduled concert. Already offensive is the loud music projected by speakers facing oceanward in the back end of SUV's. Can the police be more effective? Need for the Tom Nevers bike path was also stressed.
12. In Surfside the Boulevard is so narrowed by vegetation that oncoming SUVs have difficulty passing. Cutting back overhangs would help while awaiting Town taking of the road. Perhaps cost could be charged to a developer of Boulevard property.
13. Given the aggravation experienced when bikers ride along roads rather on a parallel bike path, suggestion was made of a home rule petition to allow a restriction, eg, only experienced fast bikers would have permits to use a road, rather than an available bike

path. Perhaps appointing a bike advisory committee could help. Guidance might offered, eg, walk bikes across rotaries and roundabouts.

14. After Tobias left at 10:50 a.m., Rick noted Tobias had a strong interest in bike path improvement. Rick left at 10:52.
15. Given that ACNVT will be voting at its next (July 19) meeting for FY2015 officers, Howard said that he would be stepping down as Chair. Uncertainty was expressed whether Jim Treanor would be continuing with ACNVT. Howard appointed three members as a Nominating Subcommittee: Lou Bassano, Jay Strauss, and Lucas Fischer [which will be subject to the state Open Meeting Law].
16. David Brown noted a potential focus of the Forum on island energy issues. The Town's Energy Coordinator Lauren Sinatra will be available as a resource.
17. Re our concern about developers who clear-cut a lot of its native vegetation, the issue is still alive. Areas such as Tom Nevers with deed restrictions might have prohibitions.
18. Howard raised concerns about proposed relocation/rebuilding of the Cottage Hospital. Lou said that assessment of island needs is one key to planning, also the role of the hospital's partnership with MGH and any approval needed from the state for increased beds. Bill is asked to invite hospital CEO and President Margot Hartmann to a future ACNVT meeting.
19. Other potential speakers to be invited are Allen Reinhard, Chair of the Land Bank etc, and representatives of the DPW and ConCom.
20. Dates of future meetings agreed: July 19 and August 2 (formerly August 9).
21. The meeting was adjourned at 11:13 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Bill Sherman, Secretary

Draft minutes e- distributed and submitted to Town Clerk 7/6/14

Minutes adopted 7/19/14, hard copy submitted to Town Clerk 7/21/14